

HOUSE BILL 1526

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 18, Part 1, relative to verdicts in criminal trials and to enact the "Chris Newsom Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Chris Newsom Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 18, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

40-18-119.

When any successor judge to the original trial judge or any appellate court is determining if a new trial should be granted to a criminal defendant on the grounds that the verdict of guilty is against the weight of the evidence, immediately upon the original trial judge dismissing a jury following the return of a unanimous verdict, there is created a presumption that the original trial judge has served as the thirteenth juror and approved the jury's verdict with respect to each count on which a unanimous verdict was returned.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.